

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, immediately following the title and prior to the heading "Field of the Invention", please insert the following:

-- This application was filed as a U. S. National Phase Application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/US04/28240 which was filed August 30, 2004, which in turn claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of United States Application Serial No. 60/499,317 which was filed August 29, 2003. The entire disclosure of each of the foregoing applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Monoclonal antibodies directed toward SMC1 β polypeptide are produced using any method which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. Examples of suitable methods for preparing monoclonal antibodies include the hybridoma methods of Kohler *et al.* (*Nature*, 256: 495-497, 1975) and the human B-cell hybridoma method (Kozbor *et al.*, *J. Immunol.*, 133: 3001-3005, 1984; Brodeur *et al.*, *Monoclonal Antibody Production Techniques and Applications*, pp. 51-63, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1987). Also provided by the invention are hybridoma cell lines which produce monoclonal antibodies reactive with ~~h2520-40~~ polypeptides.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The anti- SMC1 β antibodies of the invention may be employed in any known assay method, such as competitive binding assays, direct and indirect sandwich assays, and immunoprecipitation assays (Sola, *Monoclonal Antibodies: A Manual of Techniques*, pp. 147-158 (CRC Press, Inc., 1987)) for the detection and quantitation of ~~h2520-40~~ polypeptides. The antibodies will bind SMC1 β polypeptides with an affinity which is appropriate for the assay method being employed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 62, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

Desired amino acid substitutions (whether conservative or non-conservative) can be determined by those skilled in the art at the time such substitutions are desired. For example, amino acid substitutions can be used to identify important residues of the ~~h2520-40~~ polypeptide, or to increase or decrease the affinity of the ~~h2520-40~~ polypeptides described herein.